

The Herald

October 2009

Bethany Lutheran Church

Portland, Oregon

From Our Pastor—

Finding Our New Beat

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another.” (Romans 12:4-5, NRSV)

So how’s the new “beat” going? No...no... I’m not talking about the beat of the latest music you may have been listening too. Rather, I’m talking about the new “beat” with regard to ministry.

This issue is my first asking of council members to write and reflect on ministries they are taking a lead in with regard to Bethany’s ministry areas. It’s part of the new “beat” of leadership and ministry at Bethany. In fact, this newsletter article entitled “From the Pastor” is the only one I’ll be submitting from now on. I’m asking council members to be our main contributors with regard to writing the monthly *Heralds* from now on. I must say, however, I will miss writing more articles. But their participation in being the “major contributors” of each monthly *Herald* allows me to focus on a significant portion of my call – that is – outreach. It’s part of the new beat of ministry for them!

Now...back to the word “beat.”

If you ask a mail carrier about their “beat,” they will quickly refer to the path they travel (by foot) to deliver the mail to each house. That, in post office terms, is called their “beat.” Like each of them, I too am traveling “door to door” canvassing the neighborhood and am strategically beginning in the northwest area of the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood and working my way east. I will gradually move from the north part of this neighborhood all the way to the south end. I have nothing to put in their mail slots, per se, but I share with them a new message. I talk about Bethany’s vision for reaching out to the community and start by asking them the questions: “What is community like for you here in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood? What is community like for you on this block?” I sometimes break down the word “community” and ask about their neighbors and how well they know them. Nine times out of ten, from there, the conversation about neighbors and community begins to flow like water. But it wasn’t always this easy! It took much time, discernment, countless thoughts and prayers uplifted to find a rhythm, to recognize this as part of my new “beat” in ministry.

Inside, you will find contributions by your council leaders. It’s part of the new beat of ministry I have asked them to assume at Bethany. I also ask you to consider adding a new “beat” to your ministry as well. If you believe you can participate in a particular ministry, we can probably make that happen for you. If you scared, nervous, or don’t know how to begin, that’s o.k.

You'll never be forced to participate if you're feeling dreadfully uncomfortable in whatever you do at Bethany. But I hope...and pray...you'll consider a new opportunity or two. Who knows...it may become part of your new "beat" of ministry and life given to you and those to whom you minister with and to!

Take it from your pastor, new "beats" are not always easily started! But with time, patience, and a heart to learn, you may find yourself eager and anticipating the next time you can continue this new "beat" that you've found in your life!

Want to know more about my new "beat" I've found? Talk to me about it!

But for now...it's time to sign off because I just can't wait to get back "out there" and I hope you will consider joining your leaders in finding your new beat, whatever that may be!

*In Christ,
Pastor Jeff*



Deborah Shimkus

Community Outreach Director

As we move forward in our realization of revitalizing our Bethany community, we are pleased to welcome Deborah Shimkus as our new Community Outreach Director. Deborah comes to us with an extensive background in community outreach, public relations, volunteer coordination and events planning. She is enthusiastic about all the wonderful opportunities that lie ahead for our community. Raised in the Lutheran church in Colorado, Deborah has a full background in our church's teachings and traditions. As early as her college years, Deborah was active in outreach, serving as the Western Regional Representative for the Lutheran Student Movement. After earning her undergraduate and graduate degrees, she committed her career to working with non-profit organizations. She has spent the past 25 years working in outreach and development positions with environmental organizations, schools, and churches. Most recently she served as the statewide family team outreach coordinator with the Oregon chapter of the March of Dimes. Deborah is looking forward to meeting all of our church members, working with us to help achieve our goal of being an active vibrant faith center within our community. She will be conducting weekly work sessions with interested members on Thursday mornings and developing teams to work together on specific aspects of our growth and development. All congregants are encouraged to call or drop by the office to share with her their ideas for how, together, we can shape the future of our church community.

BETHANY BEAUTIFICATION

The outside of our beautiful church is looking SO good - with our fantastic new paint job and the amazing efforts of our volunteer lawn and garden team. Now it is time to consider the rainy months ahead and move inside. As we prepare to invite more people into our church community, we want to make certain our home is inviting to all who enter. October marks the beginning of our indoor beautification. We will begin with painting the Fellowship Hall and updating our Bulletin Boards – **can you help??**

BULLETIN BOARD BRIGADE: We need a few creative people to help turn our bulletin boards into showcases of all that Bethany is and has to offer. If you have ideas, time or talent – we need you! If you have photos of activities or events at Bethany that could be included on our boards, let us know. Call Deborah at the church office to let us know your interest and availability.

PAINT PARTY: OCT 16 & 17 Join us as we work together to brighten up our Fellowship Hall with a fresh coat of paint. We need detailers on Friday and painters on Saturday! Teens and older are encouraged to join us (this can serve as Community Service credit for high school teens). Please call the church for times, and to let us know your participation.

LUNCH & MUNCHIES: are needed to keep our painters fortified. If you can bring some snacks for our volunteers, or can help to provide lunch, please let us know.

PAINT SUPPLIES: of all kinds are needed for our Fellowship Hall Beautification efforts. If you have paint rollers, tape, plastic, or brushes please bring them to the office. If you want the items returned to you, be certain they are clearly marked.

SIGNS: We will be updating some of our signs outside the church, and creating new ones for special events. If you have sign-making skills or can help us with this in any way, please let us know.

Needed

LAPTOP COMPUTER: To support our Community Development and Outreach efforts we are in need of a working laptop computer, to be gifted to the church, or provided on loan.

Bethany Halloween Party

Join your friends at Bethany for a fun evening on **Wednesday, October 28, 2009** at **6:30pm**.
Costumes optional – Pizza and pumpkin pie and snacks

Bring a pumpkin and decorate it!

Treasure Hunt!

It is time to go through your home to see what “treasures” you may have that could be given to the church for our upcoming Holiday Bazaar. All items donated should be clean, in good working order, and of a quality befitting our church bazaar. You can bring your items to the church office during the week, or to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. **Deadline for donations is November 1st.**

Save These Dates

SAT. NOV 7th 9 – 3 ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR: This is a favorite event at Bethany. The craft ladies have been creating wonderful crafts and gifts for months. Be sure to join us on Saturday for crafts, food, and ‘treasures’ – and bring your friends!

SUN. NOV 15th and 22nd: SPECIAL “FRIENDSHIP SUNDAYS” – you won’t want to miss!! Plan now to attend your favorite service at Bethany on these special Sundays – bringing your friends, neighbors and relatives – let’s fill the pews in celebration of all that Bethany is and can be!! Don’t miss out – mark your calendar now!!

Submitted by Edith Aanderud:

Love of Our Lord

Bethany Lutheran Church is a family! A family requires everyone to take a part in sharing the Lord's work. It is written in the Bible "Walk in love as Christ also loved us and gives of Himself for us."

Communion to "home bound" members is a way of offering them that love of the Lord. When you have visited, talked, and shared communion with a member, then you know you are of the "family of the Lord".

It is a wonderful time to share with Bethany members the "Love of our Lord", with a visit with them.

Submitted by Wanda Joaquin:

Hugging Is

Hugging is healthy. It helps the immune system, cures depression, reduces stress, and induces sleep. It's invigorating, rejuvenating, and has no unpleasant side effects. Hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.

Hugging is all natural. It is organic, naturally sweet, no artificial ingredients, non-polluting, environmentally friendly, and 100 percent wholesome.

Hugging is the ideal gift. Great for any occasion, fun to give and receive, shows you care, comes with its own wrapping, and, of course, is fully returnable.

Hugging is practically perfect. No batteries to wear out. Inflation-proof, non fattening, no monthly payments, theft-proof, and nontaxable.

Hugging is an under-utilized resource with magical powers. When we open our hearts, and arms, we encourage others to do the same.

Think of the people in your life. Are there any words you'd like to say? Are there any hugs you want to share? Are you waiting, and hoping someone else will ask first? Please don't wait! Initiate!

Submitted by Doris Reese:

Circle Bible Study

The Bible Study for our Circle is Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Martin Luther called this the most important piece in the New Testament.

Along with the study, so many stories that comfort, inform, encourage, and regular passages on prayer and health.

The year's subscription still only \$12 and we encourage every woman to subscribe. For more info, contact Doris Reese.

*Recipe submitted by
LeDonna Schrumm:*

Scotch-A-Roos

Topping

Melt: over hot water
 1 Cup butterscotch chips
 1 Cup chocolate chips

Next: 1 Cup sugar
 1 Cup light corn syrup
 1 Cup peanut butter

Combine sugar and syrup in a saucepan and cook over moderate heat. Stir until mixture starts to bubble. Remove from heat and stir in peanut butter. Mix well. Stir in 6 cups Rice Krispies. Press into 9 x 13 greased pan. Spread the melted chocolate and butter scotch chips over the Rice Krispies. Cool, cut into desired size squares with a plastic knife. Enjoy!